

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

DOEKEL et al.

Appl. No.: 09/966,742

Filed: October 1, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1633

Examiner: TBA

FOR: MICROBIOLOGICAL PRODUCTION METHOD FOR α -L-ASPARTYL-L-PHENYLALANINE

January 23, 2002

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Attached is Form PTO-1449 and copies of the references listed thereon. The enclosed references were cited in the also attached International Search Report.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider each of the documents supplied herewith. It is furthermore respectfully requested that the Examiner confirm the careful consideration in the next official communication by return of an initialed and dated PTO-1449 form in accordance with the provisions of MPEP 609.

This IDS is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, prompt notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicant to comply fully.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By Richard A. Steinberg

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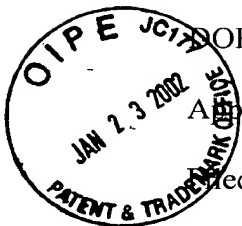
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